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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3024
INFO RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 0114
RUEHTH/AMEMBASSY ATHENS 0035
RUEHSL/AMEMBASSY BRATISLAVA 0060
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 5500
RUEHUP/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST 0053
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 0018
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0383
RUEHCP/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN 4065
RUEHDL/AMEMBASSY DUBLIN 0067
RUEHKU/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT 0090
RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON 0106
RUEHLJ/AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA 0052
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0192
RUEHLE/AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG 0410
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 1498
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 4684
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0707
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0110
RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE 0978
RUEHRK/AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK 0288
RUEHRA/AMEMBASSY RIGA 0848
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 0176
RUEHVJZ/AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO 0003
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 0369

RUEHSF/AMEMBASSY SOFIA 0406
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 8617
RUEHTL/AMEMBASSY TALLINN 4161
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 1381
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0355
RUEHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA 4666
RUEHVL/AMEMBASSY VILNIUS 3165
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 1856
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO 0935
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0376
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 000140

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TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [NATO](#) [NO](#) [FI](#)

SUBJECT: FINNISH RESPONSE - DEMARCHE: U.S. CONCERNS ABOUT
OSLO CLUSTER MUNITIONS MEETING

REF: SECSTATE 20863

Classified By: POLCHIEF GREGORY THOME FOR REASONS 1.4 (A), (B), AND (D)

1. (SBU) PolChief shared the substance of subject demarche Feb. 27 with Laura Kansikas-Debraise, Office Director of the Unit for Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. Kansikas-Debraise expressed appreciation for the US position and re-emphasized 1) that Finland considers cluster munitions (CM) to be a viable part of its arsenal for national defense; 2) that the GOF agrees with the US that the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) meetings remain the appropriate fora for discussion of humanitarian and other issues related to CM; and 3) that Finland would not support any legally binding instruments prohibiting the use of CM.

2. (C) COMMENT: Cluster munitions have become a sensitive topic in Finland in recent days, thanks to somewhat sensationalist press reports alleging that Finland intends to make a significant military acquisition of these

weapons. In response to international pressure, Finland is currently phasing out its once-extensive use of landmines to protect its long border with Russia. As part of a program to bolster its land-based defensive capabilities in the face of the pending mine phase-out, the GOF has explored the idea of acquiring additional CM. GOF discussions regarding the potential acquisition have not been held in secret and have been open to public scrutiny, Kansikas-Debraise explained, but for more than 18 months the issue never attracted any attention. However, in recent weeks CM have become a focus of the Nordic press -- both as a result of the Feb. 22-23 Oslo conference and because of the bad international press generated by Israel's use of CM in Lebanon in August. The result in Finland has been accusations that the GOF is now substituting one internationally reviled weapon with another. Nevertheless, the GOF will likely move forward to acquire additional CM.

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